

The President's Daily Brief

2 November 1970

47



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

North Vietnam

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(Page 1)

Soviets want the four-power talks on Berlin

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(Page 2)

A countrywide drive is under way in North Vietnam to enlarge the armed forces. (Page 3)

Chile

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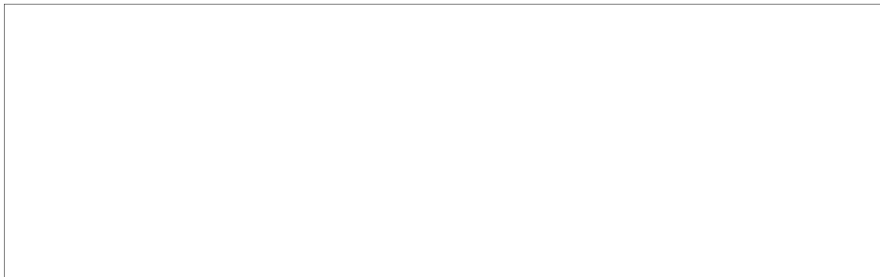
(Page 4)

In Laos, government forces have been driven from Phou Seu Mountain, the highest elevation on the western perimeter of the Plaines des Jarres. (Page 5)

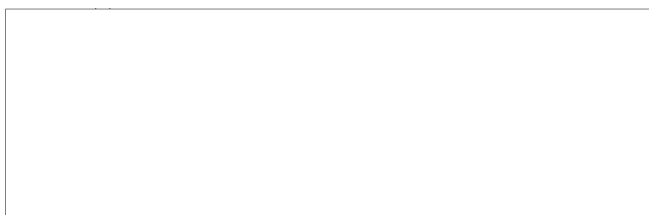
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NORTH VIETNAM - CHINA - USSR



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USSR - WEST GERMANY

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at a four-power meeting of ambassadors' advisers in Berlin on Friday, the Soviets were affable and businesslike but substantive progress was meager. The Soviets did express an interest in a more forthcoming communiqué following the next ambassadorial meeting on 4 November and frankly admitted they were looking for something "cosmetic" in view of the forthcoming West German state elections.

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NORTH VIETNAM

Official statements appearing in the North Vietnamese press indicate that a countrywide drive to enlarge the armed forces is in full swing. The statements convey a sense of urgency and suggest that the mobilization is aimed at meeting both immediate and long-range requirements for the war. One statement urges that mobilization and recruiting "be stepped up in every respect in each locality...to constantly assist the frontline in human resources." In another, officials in a province near Hanoi promise to "further accelerate" their effort to "promptly meet the demands of the present situation"; they in turn are praised for raising reserves suitable for duty at the front and for the dispatch with which they enlisted youths for the regular army.

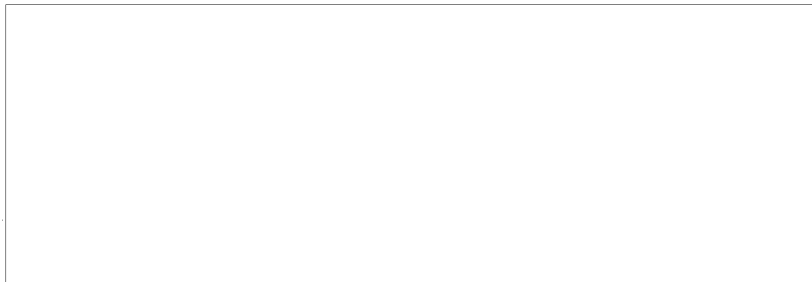
There are signs that Hanoi anticipated difficulties in getting local officials and organizations to respond to its manpower levies and took steps to secure fast results. Statements stress the need for tight party control and supervision all down the line, to the extent that in one province "key cadres" have been sent to take direct charge in some locales. Two ranking party officials have journeyed to the provinces to underscore the high priority being given to mobilization. Defense Minister Giap stressed its "extreme importance and strategic significance" in one province, and fellow politburo member Le Thanh Nghi delivered a similar message in another.

Hanoi called during the summer for a build-up of the home guard and regular army. The activity reflected in the press is clearly the effort by regional authorities to implement this call.

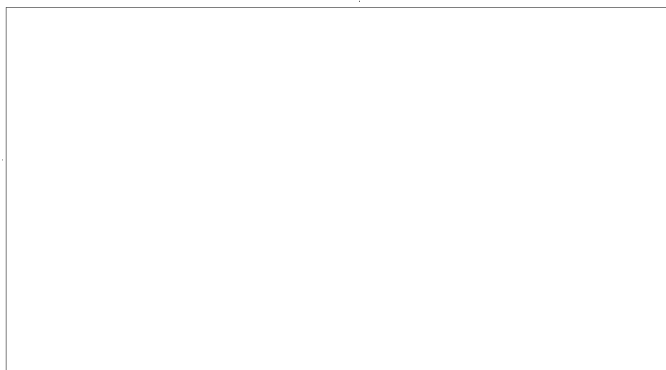
There never has been direct and clear evidence of the draft and recruitment rate in North Vietnam. The press items, however, along with the Communist need for more manpower to maintain even the low level of activity in South Vietnam and to meet requirements in Laos and Cambodia, suggest the draft is extensive. This is likely to be reflected in a higher rate of infiltration over the next several months than occurred during the same period a year ago.

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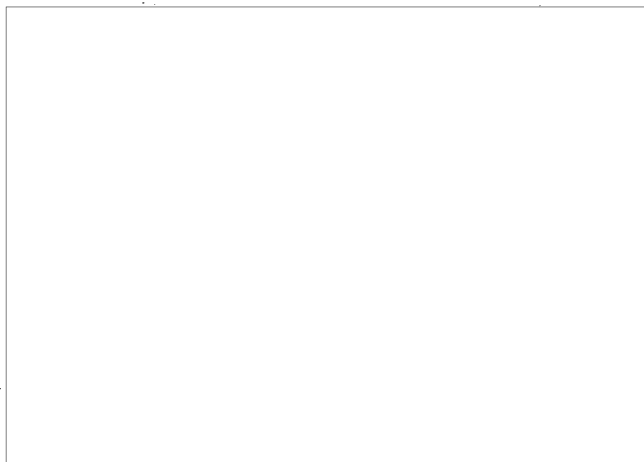
CHILE



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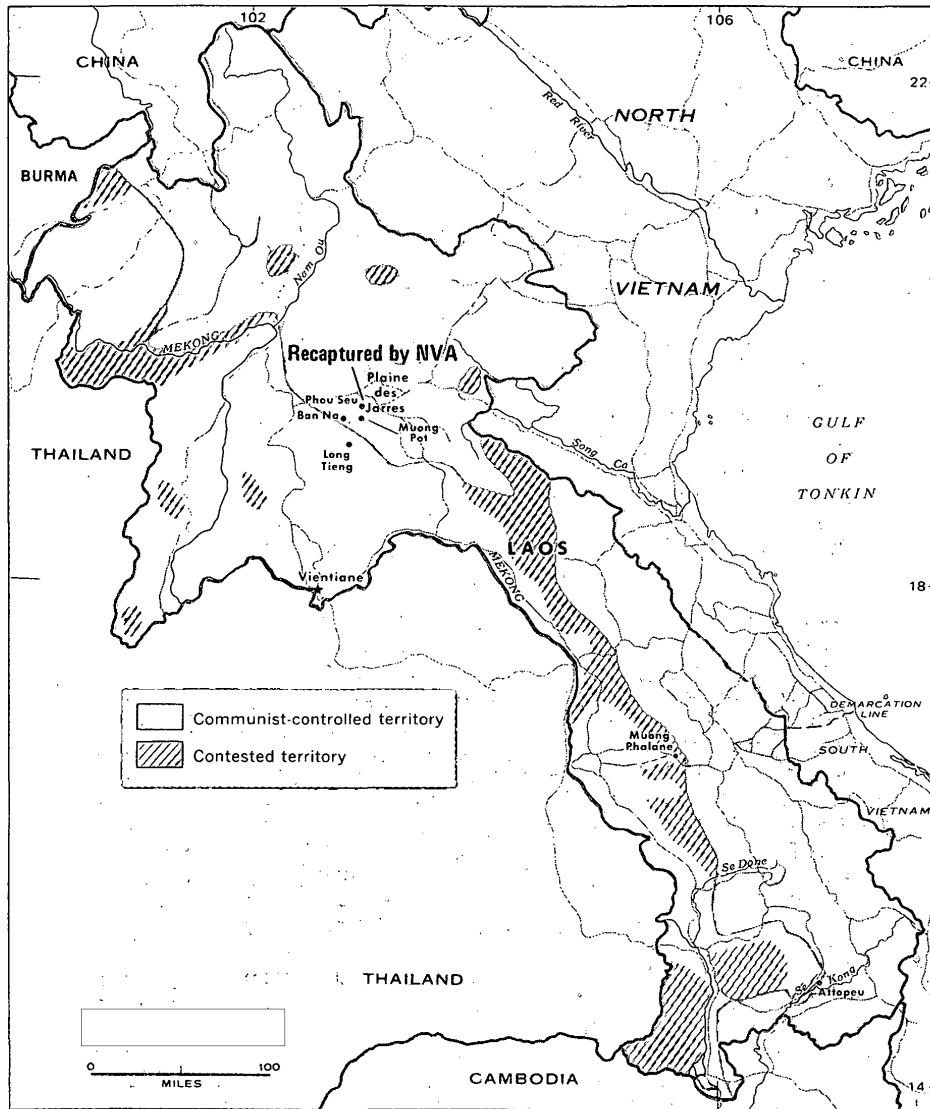
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LAOS: Current Situation



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NOTE

Laos: Last night Communist forces recaptured the government position on Phou Seu Mountain, the highest elevation on the western perimeter of the Plaine des Jarres. Previous efforts by the Communists to retake Phou Seu, which fell to Vang Pao's irregulars two weeks ago, were beaten back with the aid of heavy air strikes on 29 and 30 October. The Communists are now in a better position to challenge the government's hold on Ban Na and Muong Pot--outposts which guard the approaches to Vang Pao's headquarters at Long Tieng. There is no evidence of impending enemy attacks against these objectives, however.

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